

NORTH

MISSION NEWS

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PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

MISSION TASKFORCE TO BEGIN IN MARCH

Early two months after community groups submitted a list of 24 nominees to Mayor Agnos, the Mayor's Mission Taskforce is about to become a reality. Community recommendations included a broad mix of tenants rights advocates, homeowners, social service agency directors, housing project residents, representatives of both business and resident associations and one realtor. By and large, the nominees reflect the ethnic and point of view spectrum of the neighborhood.

The taskforce idea came about after the Agnos administration received heavy criticism for failing to take the Mission seriously and abandoning the neighborhood empowerment philosophy of his oft-quoted campaign book "Getting Things Done". Ironically, the Mayor's dilatoriness in setting up the taskforce confirms, in some minds, the very thing the taskforce is intended to deny: that the Mission is a low priority community.

Creating the taskforce requires neither city funds nor approval of the Board of Supervisors, so the question remains, "why the delay?" Matters are certainly not helped by confronting members of the Mayor's staff who either gave non specific responses or specific responses that were later retracted or contradicted by other staff members.

Nevertheless, March 19th has been set as the this-time-for-sure date of the first taskforce meeting.

Once underway, the taskforce will be set up along the same lines as the Mayor's Tenderloin Taskforce, an organization that has been active for about a year and a half. The 24 member board will break down into issue oriented committees that will be open to anyone that is interested.

Community recommendations to the Mayor allow for a 50/50 resident to out-

sider representation on the Taskforce board. Previous coalitions of Mission organizations have been almost exclusively composed of the directors of social service and non-profit agencies, leaving residents with little or no voice. The Taskforce open committee structure should rectify that problem.

The taskforce will, in theory, provide Mission groups with enough combined clout to demand real accountability from what is often a non-functioning and sometimes a contemptuous city bureaucracy. The taskforce will also be the only forum where there is even a loose alliance of the Mission District's four separate merchant organizations and half a dozen or so development groups.

A third function of the taskforce would be to provide a broad enough range of opinion and interest to allow for short and long term neighborhood planning which, for once, would be based on real attempts at community consensus, rather than the attempts of one or two organizations to develop pet projects.

All this is, of course, dependant on the Mayor's Mission Taskforce being more than just a campaign year promise whose fulfillment is constantly put off. It also depends heavily on a Taskforce membership that is truly representative of the Mission.

The Taskforce agenda is likely to be very broad, but certain recurrent issues are sure to be given priority, such as the area's unacceptably high crime rate (see page 5), restrictions on certain types of businesses (see page 4) and development of the underutilized Northeast Industrial Sector in conjunction with Mission District Planner Angelica Chiong (see page 12).

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EL OSO EMPLOYEES HUGE SETTLEMENT

A court-appointed arbitrator awarded \$31,889 in back wages and penalties to six former workers of the El Oso restaurant and its owner, Ataulfo Perez.

The workers, some of whom worked for eight months without ever seeing a paycheck, said they received their only compensation in the form of housing and meals from the establishment. They worked eight hours a day as janitors, busboys and dishwashers in the upscale supper club known for its patronage by the city's top political officials.

Four of the workers were undocumented aliens, whose immigration status (according to their attorneys) made them particularly vulnerable to the kind of employment practices that deprived them of their compensation for work performed in 1988-1989.

In a significant aspect of the ruling, the arbitrator agreed that the plaintiff's immigration status was irrelevant to their right to receive wages and overtime compensation for work already performed. El Oso was fined for both failure to pay wages in a timely manner after the employees departed, and failure to pay for overtime work.

Attorney Pauline Kim of the Employment Law Center which, with La Raza Centro Legal, represented the workers said, "We hope to send a strong message to employers that wage and overtime laws cannot be evaded, even if workers are undocumented, and if they try to avoid payments, it's going to cost them in the long run."

Kim said that the award was a small victory, but important because "the problem of underpayment and non-payment of wages is widespread," particularly in the restaurant and hotel industries, "due to the high number of minimum wage workers."

Abraham Flores, attorney for Perez, has said the back wages and penalties will be appealed.



The workers said they were happy with the ruling and, in a press conference, talked about their ordeal.

"We felt very discriminated against," said Eliseo Ramirez, who worked at El Oso for over a year. "You work and you are led to believe you will earn a lot of money, and you don't." Ramirez said that the feeling of betrayal was the most difficult part of the experience.

Patty Hindo, of La Raza Centro Legal, noted that for many of the workers, it was their first experience with work in the United States after emigrating from Mexico.

"Ataulfo Perez knew we didn't have any place to go," said plaintiff Alfonso Prado, who also worked in the restaurant. "The reason he believed he could get away with this was because, as long as we were being housed and fed, he didn't have to pay us right away," he said. "It was only sustenance," he added.

The workers said their wages were used

to support their families still living in Mexico. Not receiving their wages caused intense hardship on their dependents and created family strain. "We suffered a lot of pressure," said Ramirez.

Telephoning their relatives in Mexico, "we were always asked 'What's happening, why aren't you sending us money?'" said Ramirez, adding that they did not tell their families they were not being paid, "because we did not want to worry them."

Prado said the lack of money severely restricted their freedom in the U.S. "We could not buy food for ourselves, we could not buy clothes, we could not pay bills," said Prado, referring to the months when they worked for El Oso. Ramirez said his younger relatives, counting on the money he would send for their education, were unable to enroll in school during that time.

Attorney Pauline Kim stressed that the victory was a small one, considering the magnitude of the violations, and that El Oso's appeal could force the plaintiffs to begin again from square one. But, the workers said they were very pleased with the outcome of the case.

"We are very happy with the decision," said Prado. "We are happy we learned we had rights, that we could come to lawyers, that we could seek help." He indicated there was very little consciousness of legal rights in their work situation at the time, and that Perez had laughed at them when they told him they were going to file a lawsuit. "La Raza helped us and we tell everyone about them," said Prado. "It didn't matter whether we were Black or brown or had papers or not."

by Tara Kramer

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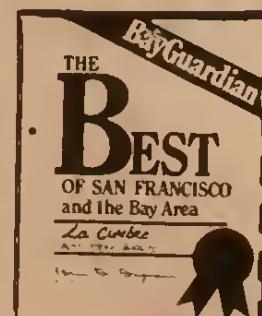
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PAWNSHOPS BANNED IN THE MISSION

A five year moratorium on the granting of pawnshop permits in the Mission and Ingleside Police Districts passed the final obstacle on its way to the Mayor's desk. Tuesday, February 20th, saw an amendment to the ordinance on legislating pawnshops pass the last committee vote. It has only now to receive the mayor's signature to make it official.

The beginning of the moratorium goes back to last year, May of 1990, when an application for a new pawnshop (at 2054 Mission) was submitted by Victoria Kantarzhi. Her application went first to the local level and was initially denied with then-Mission Police Station Captain Mike Hebel supporting the denial.

Kantarzhi went to appeal and was granted a license on the pretext that she never reapply for a firearms permit. Construction of the new pawnshop (the A to Z Pawnshop) is continuing. Victoria Kantarzhi was unavailable for comment.

Pawnshops are considered, by many in the community, to be grouped in with a number of businesses as undesirable (see "Patrolling the Mission Corridor", Dec. '90). Neighbors believe that such undesirable businesses draw a criminal element to the neighborhood. "It's the opinion of an awful lot of people that pawnshops are a magnet for crime," says Rose Chuchwar,

Co-President of the South Mission Neighborhood Improvement Association.

A lot of this sentiment stems from the way in which pawnshops conduct their business. Pawnshops act as second-hand stores, buying and selling used items, but more notably they act as money lenders. The owner accepts merchandise as collateral on a money loan. If the loan isn't paid back in a set amount of time, the items are sold.

The current ordinance, SF Municipal Code Part II, Article 28, does restrict the number of pawnshops in a given neighborhood. Only one per block is allowed and none can be within 200 feet from the property line of any church or school.

Rose Chuchwar saw this restriction as too lenient and instigated a correspondence with Supervisor Jim Gonzalez in order to impose a hold on the issuing of pawnshop permits so that the ordinance could be changed. This effort resulted in a five year moratorium (Section 2825) to the above police code.

The moratorium covers the Mission police district ranging from Diamond Heights to Potrero Street and 13th to 27th Streets) and adjacent Ingleside districts south to the San Mateo county line and will not expire until January 15, 1996.

The moratorium was widely supported



PHOTO BY JASON ALBERTSON

by the Board of Supervisors, whose opposition to pawnshops stemmed from the high crime rate of the Mission and the existence of four pawnshops along Mission Street, including the Ingleside Police District due to its proximity and to preclude a pawnshop ghetto relocating to outer Mission Street. They also held that pawnshops "facilitate the commission of crime and its concealment".

None can say if pawnshops do attract

crime or not. It's even hard to prove if they do traffic in stolen goods. The Police check the pawnshop records (which include a description of their merchandise) every 24 hours, but unless stolen items are marked with some sort of identification number, it's almost impossible to trace the item back to its registered owner to tell if it has been stolen.

by Tim Manley

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MISSION CRIME: GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

When former Mission Station Captain Michael Brush was asked by the News, a few years ago, what would happen if police resources were concentrated on high crime areas such as 16th and 24th Street BART plazas and the Army and Valencia Street housing projects, he replied that the crime would move a few blocks over "the way that - if you grab a balloon, it will squeeze up through your fingers."

A reading of 1990 Mission crime figures confirms that this is what has been occurring.

Four traditionally high crime areas targeted for intense police action all showed substantial improvement. The 16th and Mission "Devil's Quadrangle" (police precinct 414) remained one of the most dangerous places in San Francisco, but showed an 8% drop in overall police reports.

The adjacent Precinct 413 which includes Valencia Gardens showed an even greater 15% drop. Crime in and around the Bernal Dwellings projects on Army (462) also fell by 7% and, at the 24th Street BART Plaza (454) police reports dropped by nearly 10%.

Despite the overall drop, the four murders in 462 gave the Bernal Dwellings neighborhood the "honor" of being most lethal in the city and it tied for second in car thefts. The Devil's Quadrangle was fourth among nearly 300 neighborhoods in robberies, assaults and murders, seventh in rapes and fifth in overall crime... down from 4th in 1989.

That's the good news. The bad is that a number of locations near the high crime precincts showed substantial increases as the bad guys moseyed a few blocks down and some quiet residential and industrial areas took a substantial hit.

This was most obvious on Mission Street between 17th and 19th (Precinct 422) where

merchants have already been complaining about the influx of pushers, prostitutes, thieves, drunks and killers. In 1990, this area recorded a 5% increase with much higher incidents of crimes against persons. Rapes doubled. Robberies increased 38% and assaults 11%.

(It's also the block on which Mayor Agnos confronted a belligerent apple thief

precinct 422, the area around Franklin Square where the City's day laborer referral service is to be set up and the 22nd and Folsom area just north of the Bernal Dwellings.

Crime in West Mission neighborhoods was more sporadic. It was substantially up on the southwest border of Dolores Park, but down in the 20th and Guerrero area.

The fact that, overall, police reports are

But anybody with vision even slightly superior to that of Little Stevie Wonder knows that nuisances haven't gone away, despite the decrease in these kinds of reported crimes.

Captain Newlin believes that many of these daytime nuisances transform like werewolves into nighttime felons and hopes that new policies aimed at getting habitual drunks and pests off the street through stiffer sentencing will pay off in lower robbery and murder rates. "I'd like to pop that sucker," he says of the crime balloon and the City's "revolving door justice".

But popping the balloon requires money, and money that just isn't there... money for cops, jails and judges, money for jobs that give people alternatives to crime, money for drug and alcohol detox, for education, for encouraging local businesses to flower in some of the abandoned storefronts that otherwise serve as robbers' roosts, etc. etc.

With a mayoral election this year and Board of Supervisors' race in 1992, hefty local tax increases are improbable. And any federal dollars that the S&L (and soon-to-be bank and insurance) bailouts miss, the Gulf War will assuredly snatch up as deftly as a junkie boosting a cellular phone from the front seat of some Beemer-driving fool stopped for a burrito.

What improvement occurs is likely to arise from the private sector. For example, the obstacle course that once was the entrance to Pancho Villa's has been removed by the hiring of a security guard. It's an extra expense, but people are returning to the taqueria while the spare change/latente/purse snatch crowd has relocated to more opportunistic locations that, in turn, will have to respond or go out of business.

by Brian Doohan



MEAN STREETS FRIDAY NIGHT

- see last month's News.)

Incoming Mission Police Captain John Newlin hopes to see an improvement there during 1991. "We are up from 5 C-Pop officers to 13, so that on any given night there will be 4 to 6 patrolling the street. The Mission corridor and 24th Street will be our priority."

Crime, in turn, is already migrating to neighborhoods east of Mission such as the 18th and Folsom Street area next to Pre-

about equal with those last year while the seriousness of crime is increasing bears out some statements made by former Mission Station Captain Michael Hebel last year when he told an assembly of Mission residents and merchants that hot pursuit of the robbers, rapists and killers would mean less manpower available to chase away drunks, hookers, panhandlers and the lost souls with leaky bladders performing their acts of physical graffiti on the Mission's walls.



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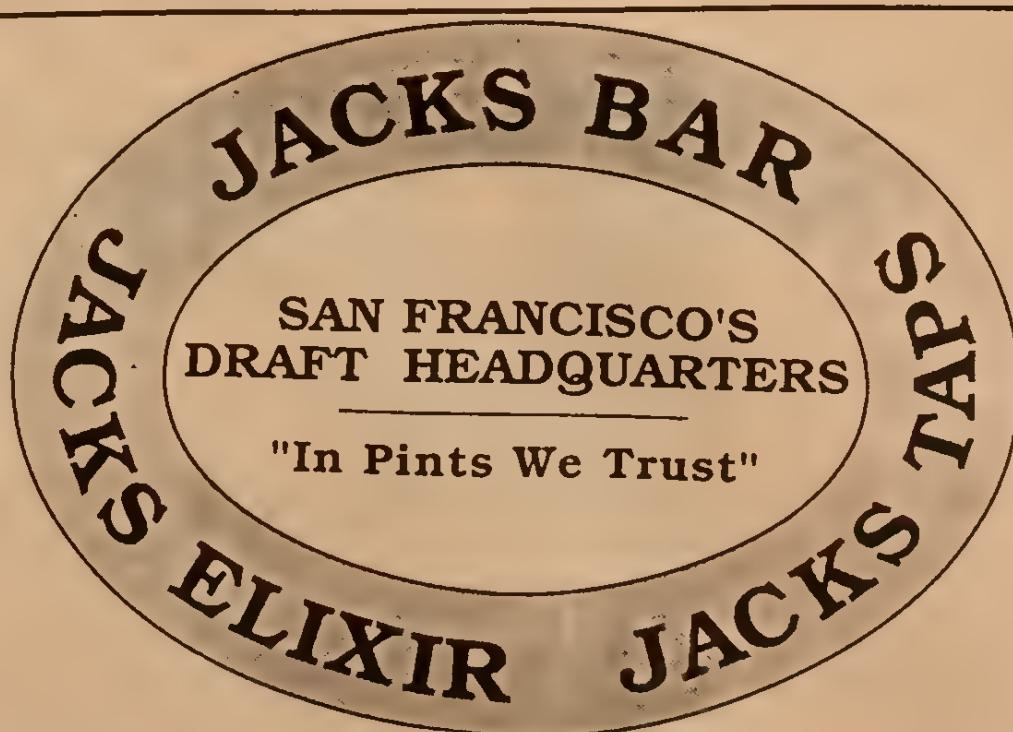
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THREE MISSION WAR STORIES

HATEM

by Jeannine Hallacy



August 2, 1990 marked the beginning of a sleepless nightmare for millions of people around the world. For Egyptian born artist Hatem, the personal impact of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would become

a dark spectre that would haunt his every thought. Hatem, a Mission resident, immigrated to the U.S. eleven years ago. He treasures his relationship with his younger brother Tarik, his only sibling.



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Tarik was one of an estimated 300,000 Egyptian nationals who went to work in Kuwait in an attempt to escape the hard pressed Egyptian economy and build a nest egg of security for his family. At least half of Kuwait's 1.8 million population are foreign nationals, many of whom are forced to seek economic opportunities outside their impoverished nations. Thousands of Pakistanis, Filipinos and Bangladeshis who fled Kuwait after the invasion continue to wait in overcrowded refugee centers in Jordan.

Egyptians working in the prosperous gulf nation could earn the equivalent of five years' salary in Egyptian currency in less than a year. A large portion of Egyptians in Kuwait were highly educated white collar workers; physicians, engineers, teachers and attorneys, filling a noticeable gap in Kuwaiti expertise and training necessary for the accelerated development of the nation's infrastructure.

Tarik, a 34 year old CPA, was working as an account executive establishing supermarket chains throughout the country. He lived in Kuwait for nine years, where he married his Egyptian wife Eptisam and had two little girls, three year old Sara and one and a half year old Mai.

The news of the Iraqi invasion had a devastating effect upon Hatem, who has been an outspoken critic of Saddam Hussein's regime for over ten years. He feared for the safety of his brother's family and felt equally enraged at what awaited the Kuwaiti people. "My first thought was that Saddam wrote his death warrant," Hatem said. "I thought, 'My God the atrocities will be severe' for all the people in Kuwait. What Saddam has delivered is exactly what I expected; brutality, destruction and torture."

Hatem was able to talk to his brother during the first two days following the invasion until the telephones were cut. "I told him to get out as soon as possible," he said. "He trusted my judgment as someone

on the outside who could see the situation more clearly." By that time, Tarik himself had already heard rumors of random civilian round-ups and detention. "I felt more angry than anything... a sense of not knowing what would happen and the frustration that I couldn't take any part in reversing it," Hatem said. "I felt that Tarik's intelligence and psychological makeup would give him a much higher chance of escaping safely than most people. But I couldn't stop thinking about the thousands of others who may not have that chance."

Hatem's fears were underlined by the thought that his long standing public opposition to Hussein's regime would further jeopardize his brother's life. His scathing indictments of the Iraqi dictator have been published in Al-Ahram, one of Egypt's largest daily newspapers. In 1984, he made a personal affront to the Iraqi leader when he openly refused the Saddam Award for Visual Arts. The annual award recognizes outstanding achievement by Arab artists and offers a \$50,000 cash prize with a solid gold medal engraved with Saddam's portrait. Hatem rebuked the award because he felt that as a "sincere and serious painter" he must refuse to be used as a "propaganda tool of a dictator".

After the phone communications with Kuwait were cut, there was nothing Hatem could do but religiously monitor all the news from the Gulf conflict and wait. Each day was elongated in time as he tried to limit his imagination about the events inside Kuwait. He kept in daily contact with his parents in Alexandria, Egypt, trying to calm his distraught mother whose only grandchildren were in danger.

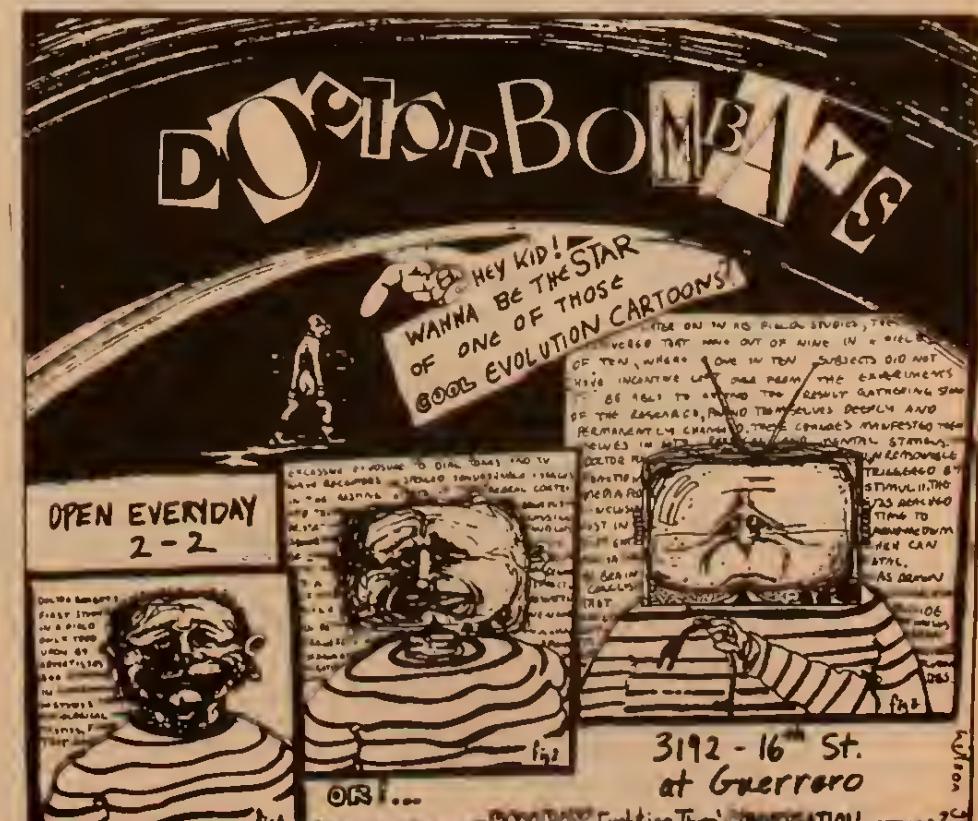
On October 24th, he received news that Tarik and his family had successfully escaped to Jordan. He later heard Tarik's account of their horrifying odyssey driving through Kuwait to the Iraqi border where they were stopped by two Iraqi soldiers. After a cursory glance at their passports,

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they ordered Tarik to turn the car back. Automatic rifles were pointed directly at the children. Tarik made the appearance of reversing the car and then gunned the engine forward, driving over one Iraqi soldier. They were shot at as the car sped away.

Tarik is now one of tens of thousands of Egyptians desperately seeking work in a severely depressed economy, further burdened by the massive return of workers from Kuwait and the loss of millions of dollars remitted from their earnings. His lifedream of returning to Egypt with enough capital to establish his own business will remain just a dream for some time to come.

He is slowly accepting the reality that the nine years he spent working away from home and painstakingly saving over \$40,000 is permanently lost. Tarik's family fled Kuwait with nothing but the clothes they were wearing and an emergency food supply. They are staying with his retired parents whose modest income was reduced without the extra monthly help they received from Tarik's earnings.

Hatem is helping them through the crisis with financial and emotional support.

Despite his relief in knowing his brother's family is alive, he is still wrapped in a shroud of anger, despair and sorrow. As a veteran of the 1973 Egyptian-Israeli war, he is painfully reminded of the naked terror caused by war. As an Arab-American, he is deeply saddened by the death of other Arabs. Yet he is unwavering in his belief that Saddam Hussein must be removed from power.

"I felt grateful that my family was safe but I kept thinking of those who couldn't leave," he said. "There was no good news that could offset the loss or the pain. It's very sad when you reach a point where you can't really afford to be happy."

"Those who may commit aggression and atrocity will inherit the anger of almighty Allah and the hatred of the believers."

"If they choose peace, choose the same. Depend on almighty Allah so war may not take place."

"Those who cannot hear, cannot understand, that they do not understand."

From the Koran

country, if there is no compassion, we are failing. Look at the technology we have now — we've gone to the moon! But we're still killing each other. We're so much more advanced than we were even twenty years ago: not fifty, twenty.

(My son) has the responsibility of a soldier to be alive. But he has a very small chance of coming out alive if chemical warfare is used.

We never should have gone to war. This war didn't start right now. It started a long time ago. We don't really know what is going on in the heads of Saddam

impossible to change anything right now, but future generations might be able to understand. Awakening the younger generation will affect the future; maybe neither one of us will see it — but if I can even move one finger to help, I'm willing to do it. I'm afraid for young people. There is no hope to change people's minds in power. But there is hope to change young people. You can't choose what your sons and daughters do, but you can give shape, give emotions. You need to respect them, whatever they do. My son's mind is very good, he's funded by the Army. He



IRENE

- by Gita Srinivasan

Irene Boas and I are sitting in the early Saturday evening at a front table at Irene's restaurant on Valencia, Ole Fajitas. Customers, seeing that the light is on even though it's after hours, stop by with an encouraging word or smile for Irene as we speak. Fifteen members of Radical Women Against Imperialism are having a meeting at the next table. The counter by the cash register offers information on peace protests and organizing around the city.

Irene Boas has a son, Edmund, who is stationed in the Gulf. He is a specialist in chemical warfare. We talk...

Q: I wanted to know how the war is affecting you personally, your day to day life.

IB: I respect my son and his decisions but, right now, I'm talking as myself, as a mother. What we are seeing now is human beings without respect and compassion for others. We must be failing as human beings. No matter what color, what

Hussein's and Bush's minds. I think they knew all along it would be war... I always expected a ground war. America is not going to waste this chance. Iraq is like a superpower — there will be a lot of blood, a lot of sorrow. I don't know if power equals human lives.

Q: Do you feel a difference?

IB: No, I have no power.

Q: But you've been participating in rallies, demonstrations...

IB: I've been going to them all. It's

wants to get a Ph.D. in nuclear science.

Q: Do you write to him and receive letters?

IB: Yes, but not all of them reach on time — he went for a whole month without getting a letter! He feels at peace with himself, feels that this is a responsibility he took, right or wrong, a job that he has to do. Every day, I'm living day to day. Knowing that he is at peace, all that I wish for him is strength. In order to defend yourself, you

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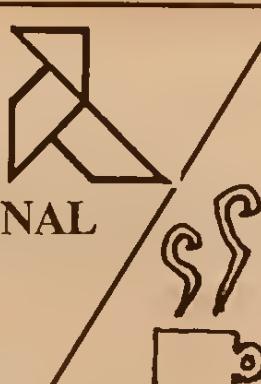
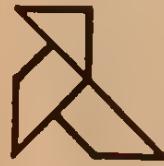
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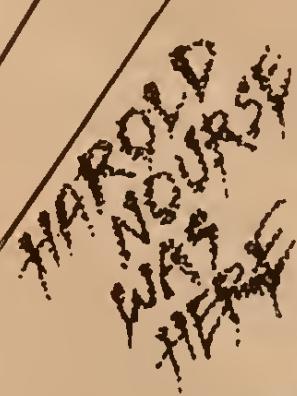
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have to feel hate, not love. To be able to kill someone. I don't want to jeopardize my son's life with my love for him as a mother. So when I speak with him, I don't show it so much. I just pray he comes back safe... the same way as he left.

Q: Does he seem different, changed, over the phone?

IB: He's not expressive.

Q: Maybe he's doing the same thing you are, protecting you.

IB: Yes!

Q: Do you have other children?

IB: I have one other son, Peter, one year younger. He's quiet, just holding. Just holding. And hoping, and hoping. That's all we have left.

Q: What do you have to say to other mothers, parents, in your position?

IB: That people should do something for people, make the government understand they need to have more value for human life. And there's nothing, nothing, that can equal life.

Q: What would you say to young people?

IB: All that poor people have is themselves. How can you not take care of the only thing you have? I meet a lot of people in this restaurant business. I try to motivate them, tell them "you are in control of your life". We are taught that there is a right way, and a wrong way. Not to think, not to question. Young people need to be taught how to use their intellect - develop it! You have it.

Q: Have you been watching television? How do you get the news?

IB: TV cannot release the truth, for so many reasons. I have a short wave, so I can hear European news. The reactions in European countries has been so different than in the U.S. — in Italy there have been two hundred and fifty peace demonstrations; there have been demonstrations with half a million people!

Q: Why do you think the response has been so different in America?

IB: Because the only way to control

the masses is to keep them blind. When they understand, have some wisdom, they'll be able to make more decisions. If they are educated, they will rebel.

Q: You're from Argentina, you've lived in Europe, travelled - why did you decide to settle in this country?

IB: Yes, I have two American sons. I have a lot of respect for this country. I always thought it was the best place for human rights in the world. It's far from perfect, but it's a beginning and beginnings are always hard. But I see people drugged, living off social security, no sense of pride. There's no mental health in this country - look at the Vietnam vets on the streets all over. Who cares about them? Twenty years ago, I really thought this country, with civil rights and human rights, was the beginning of a new era. I've been disappointed by what I saw. The rich get wealthy, the poor get killed. At least in this country, it's far from perfect but there are way more young people awakening to the truth, to reality. You have to start somewhere... I'm here in the Mission because I want to be in the presence of real people. I wanted to be where civil rights changes are happening - I could have opened this cafe anywhere. My children grew up here... both of them went to Edison School, and then to St. James Catholic School.

Q: It seems as if the customers are really caring...

IB: People have been so supportive - customers, people in the neighborhood. They come, stay with me, see how I'm doing, bring me things. This is the heart of San Francisco - all different beliefs, the artists, the activists. They've been wonderful. I'm very thankful to all of them.

There is a telephone call; Irene goes to the back to get it. When she comes back she tells me it was Edmund's wife of seven months, crying. She had just heard that the ground war had begun.

PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER



said Gonzalez.

So far, the Scud attacks on Haifa have occurred outside school hours. One, a few days after the commencement of the war, was particularly devastating. "Ben told me that he heard a long boom and then the windows began to shake," Gonzalez said.

While schools were closed, the kindergartners grew bored between the hours of 7 AM and noon, when they would otherwise be in school. Time is filled with television. Childrens' programming, primarily American and Israeli cartoons, has been increased on Haifa's government-owned TV station but children have also been exposed to war coverage.

Gonzalez considers Israeli television more detailed and the public more informed than Americans... thus while the Israelis felt it was unfair to draw them into the war, most recognized Hussein's intent and sentiment for intervention was perhaps less than portrayed in the American media.

According to Gonzalez, Israelis sense that an outcome of the war will be the overthrow of Jordan's King Hussein. They are waiting to see if there is improvement in relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia, but

remain suspicious of Syria and its leader Hafaz Assad. Gonzalez also discounted rumors that the regime of Egypt's pro-American Hosni Mubarak could be in trouble.

Domestically, Israelis have rallied behind Prime Minister Shamir. "I didn't vote for George Bush," said Gonzalez, "but my reasonings have now changed because he's shown a lot of strength. A lot of Israelis feel the same way about Shamir."

At this point a telephone rang and the caller told Gonzalez of the rumor of Iraq's surrender.

"One of the most interesting things that I saw in Israel last winter was a teenager in a yarmulke wearing a t-shirt that said, 'Don't Worry, America, Israel is behind you,'" Gonzalez said. And although teachers at the kindergarten level have been treating the war and the gas masks "like a game", Israeli children also are getting an early education in some of life's hardships.

"My son told me he learned a new song at school about Saddam Hussein which goes... when translated from Hebrew... Saddam this is not Iran, this is America. So don't confuse the two."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the NORTH MISSION NEWS
and whomever it may concern.

Greetings.

We heard, through our Raccoon Network, about the Anti Raccoon Manifesto you published in your latest issue. It sounds very much like yet another declaration of war. You people are so thrilled by the very prospect of warfare, these days!

We won't elaborate on the fact that we have a right to this planet, too, ("Right to Life", you call it?) that you have been after us the way that you are after any soul that threatens your convenience, that you don't know how to share, only how to kill. You have killed woods and raccoon dwellings, turned them into beds for your cars and shopping malls where you sell our fur and skin over our dead bodies, you have poisoned our air and food, well, let's not elaborate, we know and you know. If you don't get yourselves an education... and, by the way, quit patronizing us as "cute", etc., will you?

We have been trying to accommodate your greed as non-violently as we possibly could. We don't have a Raccoon Army, and there have been very few casualties on your side, compared to those on ours. We do need to eat, as you do, we do need to feed our babies, as you do. You see us collectively as a nuisance to be disposed of, by all means indicated in your article. The fact that we are living beings doesn't phase you one bit, you are so used to dealing with things. Notice that even your garbage cans become more precious than us...

What's left for us to do, so we keep ourselves alive? Get together and raid the city, all at once, the way you raid your supermarkets twice a week? Will we then be labelled "Communists?" "Terrorists?"

We raccoons believe in sharing the planet, sharing life, with you, even though, mind you, you aren't the easiest species to get along with. Just don't push us too far. This is a Raccoon Warning.

RACCOON POWER
(translator: Viviane Lemer)

Editor:

Robert Cole's summary of community activists' priorities for the Mission District in the coming year (February, Letters) alarms me. I don't know whether the overwhelmingly negative tone of the 5-point agenda stems from his personal perception

of the neighborhood or from the unidentified activists themselves, but the overall effect is disheartening.

The five goals emphasize the words moratorium, ban, close down, demolish, preserve from being destroyed, and severely punish. Together they constitute not so much a vision for the future as a prolonged whine about the present. The image evoked is of an embattled, aging community defensively struggling to hold on. That image is unworthy of the people who make up the vibrant and exuberant neighborhood that Mr. Cole himself calls the "heart of San Francisco".

If we want the Mission to continue to be the city's heart, if we aspire to be its cultural and social soul as well, then we need a plan of action that emphasizes not just limits on the bad influences but enhanced opportunities for the good. An agenda that calls for innovation and alternatives, cooperation and creation, not punishment and destruction.

There are real problems confronting us as we walk along the streets of our neighborhood and into our homes (if we have homes). Without question, there are threatening, drunk people on the streets; there is inadequate housing; too much trash; too much vandalism; too many drugs. The question is not whether but how to deal with these things.

The call to "severely punish the high school punks into drugs and vandalism" is a good example. Harsh punishment itself will reduce neither drugs nor vandalism. If we really want to make these activities less appealing to bored teenagers who see few good employment opportunities, then let's address their frustrations and their fears. Let's talk about offering them real alternatives. Let's figure out how we as a community can train them and create good jobs for them, expand their recreational opportunities, support their struggling families and give them a reason to hope, a reason (as opposed to a threat) to stay away from drugs.

In short, let's come up with a community agenda that appeals to the best in people — one that allows us to concentrate on what we want to make in the Mission, rather than on what we want to destroy.

Angela Bottum



**HEADACHES?
BACK PAIN?
NECK PAIN?
LOSS OF SLEEP?
NERVOUS TENSION?
HIP OR LEG PAIN?
COLD HANDS OR FEET?
STIFFNESS?
ARTHRITIS/BURSITIS?
DIZZINESS?
SHOULDER/ARM PAIN?**



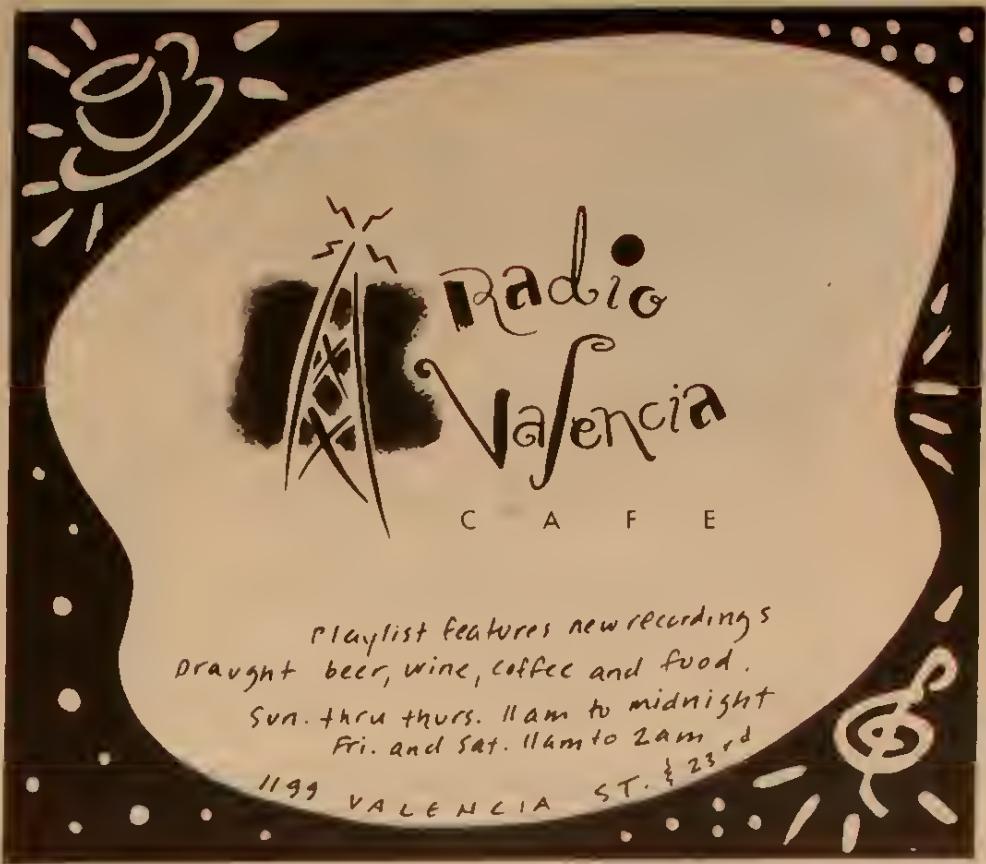
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ILLEGAL PAY PHONES

Illegal pay phones are popping up at a surprising rate along main corridors of the Mission District. Merchants and residents have complained that the seemingly excessive number of new pay phones is likely to create a nuisance rather than provide for a necessity. Moreover, the illegal phones may mean fines for vendors, operators and merchants.

In order to install a phone on a public sidewalk, a vendor or operator has to get permission from the merchant whose store will provide the electricity for the phone. In exchange, the vendor may give the merchant a commission. Vendors also are likely to have the merchant sign a contract to keep the phone in place for a period of time.

But, there is a hitch. To install a phone which encroaches on or over the sidewalk, two permits are needed — an electrical permit to accommodate the merchant's electricity for use of a public phone and a permit from the Department of Public Works - Street Use Management Division. If the permits aren't in place, then the phone should not be installed.

Under old regulations, approximately 600 phone installations received proper permits. However, according to Denise Brady, Permit Section Manager for DPW, "no permits for phones have been issued in nearly two years, with the exception of those in MUNI bus shelters."

An un-permitted phone may result in fines for all parties concerned. Brady stated that merchants, vendors and operators can be penalized for installing and/or operating pay phones without proper permits. In addition, the merchant will have to pay for permit processing (if DPW deems that the phone location is appropriate) plus pay the City a monthly commission. Despite high fines, the public phone business is booming. DPW estimates that there are many unpermitted public pay phones operating throughout the City.

(Until the FCC cracked down last fall, many privately owned public phones were also guilty of rate gouging. In one instance, a pay phone near 21st and Folsom operated by notorious local slumlord Bob Imhoff charged 85 cents for a call to a location eight blocks away. Gouging has dropped off sharply since the FCC initiative.)

Along the 24th Street corridor, members of the 24th Street Revitalization Committee noticed the installation of several un-permitted phones in an area already oversaturated. There are about a dozen public phones located along a two block stretch of 24th Street between Harrison and Folsom Streets (not including those inside stores and entrance ways). About half of these phones are owned by four different private vendors and are un-permitted.

The residents' and merchants' main complaint about public phones is that they can receive incoming calls which facilitate them being used for illicit activities. "It takes a concerted and consistent effort," says Lisa Hamburger of Mission Housing Development Corporation who works with various groups throughout the Mission on this issue, "to get the various phone owners to shut off the incoming call service." public phones also tend to attract graffiti and serve as a gathering point for neighborhood youths.

DPW has temporarily stopped issuing permits for the installation of pay phones on sidewalks, pending new legislation. If you see a telephone being installed, it's probably without proper permits. Any citizen who notices the installation of an illegal

pay phone is urged to contact Alex Peder-
son of DPW (554-5815) immediately. New
phones can be installed in as little as two
days, so it is essential to stop the process
"on the spot".

CURAS

CURAS (Comunidad Unida en Re-
spuesta al SIDA/Community United
in Response to AIDS) was founded in June
1987 to address the HIV needs of gay/
lesbian Latinos in San Francisco. The
CURAS staff has a strong commitment to
ensuring that HIV services get to Latinos
who need them.

Their first contract is to conduct HIV
prevention for Latino men who have sex
with men. This is done through street
outreach, group/individual counseling and
educational trainings for those who would
like to help Latinos with HIV.

CURAS also produces the Prisma
Awards — an annual celebration of the
gay/lesbian Latino leadership. This year's
gala production will serve as the first year
with staff assistance, and promises to help
raise money to create other programs at
CURAS. This year's Prisma Awards will
be held on March 30, 1991. Please call 255-
2731 for more information about CURAS
and the Prisma Awards.

JULIAN ST. ORGANIZES

In response to increasing crime activity
along Julian Street, between 14th and
16th Streets, additional police foot patrols,
police beats and area lighting are being
proposed to meet resident demands for a
safer neighborhood.

The Julian Street area has seen, in recent
months, a dramatic increase in drug traf-
ficking, prostitution, loitering, thefts, bur-
glaries and assaults following two years of
police action on the crime-ridden Valencia
Gardens housing project and the 16th Street
BART Plaza.

Fearful and frustrated residents, along
with representatives from Project SAFE,
met on February 13 with Mission Police
Station Captain John Newlin and officer U.
B. Morhman at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Capt. Newlin told the 15 residents in
attendance that he has also instructed his
officers to investigate complaints about
liquor stores that sell to minors and already
intoxicated persons.

by M. P. R. Howard

MILITARY HARD SELL TO TEENS

It was only a few days before the war in
the Gulf broke out when I discovered an
Examiner article headlined "OAKLAND
TO STOP SELLING LISTS OF STUD-
ENTS' NAMES TO MILITARY" (Jan.
24, 1991). The article claimed that it was
Oakland Unified School District policy to
release names to military recruiters. Being
a local high school teacher I wondered
aloud if San Francisco Unified School
District had a similar policy.

During homeroom, I had one of the
students read announcements, and then this
article. Word got around quickly and,
throughout the day, students — all of them
African and Latin American — began vol-
unteering that they had been recruited heavily,
particularly in the last few weeks. I was

stunned and the students were too - particularly when the question was asked, "How did they get our names in the first place?"

How is this possible? "The lists of students' names are public domain," said one school official who had turned students' names over to military recruiters. "Their names are already 'public domain' because of the census taken last year. Therefore, it is not a violation of their right to privacy."

Most of the names are already contained in commercial data bases too numerous to mention. In the age of the computer it goes along with the territory. One can always observe an increase of junk mail after making a credit card purchase, but that does nothing to address the ethics involved - particularly when you compare the inconvenience of receiving junk mail to that of losing your life in a desert in the Middle East.

The largest target of these hard-sell tactics are minority teenagers, some as young as 14 and 15 years of age, without forty thousand dollars stashed away for college. Nobody knows this better than a hungry recruiter.

Now that hard core recruitment of minority high school students has been exposed and prohibited by unanimous vote of the Board of Education, one might expect that such recruitment would have been curtailed. Coverage by KRON-TV and countless local radio newscasts, Dominique DiPrima's "Home Turf" TV show and the Bay Guardian and North Mission News (2/91) has not, however, stopped the hard-sell tactics by persistent armed services

recruiters. "After all," claimed Marine recruiter Staff Sergeant Frank Jenkins, "we have the right to recruit. It's 'free speech'.

"Yeah, we call back however many times we need to. We want to talk to the kid, not the parents. If a parent says they don't want us to call, we call back until we get the kid. Of course, we don't always know how old they are. Their names are on a card. Sometimes the kids we call are 6 years old."

And despite the School Board vote, preceded by some 30 speakers touching on racism, class and ethics, the question remains unanswered as to what the military plans to do about the thousands of names of San Francisco children on their hard disks. Shall concerned citizens call the City Attorney? Hire an ACLU lawyer and go to court?

After all, if things get too difficult for the "volunteer" army, President Bush will have to initiate a draft... and Middle America, despite falling for every other psychological ploy in Bush's media arsenal, still recognizes a bad war when they see one blown in by a draft.

Despite a temporary dip in hard core recruitment since the vote, many minority students report that they continue to be harassed although both parents and students ask recruiters to stop calling. "You don't need parental consent to stop by our office," one student recalls being told by a recruiter.

Ironically, a recent Supreme Court decision denies pregnant teenagers the same freedom.

by Pat Fahey

RABID HYENA MENACES MISSION



Hank Hycna wants a future. This actor, singer, puppeteer (and occasional North Mission News contributor) has been enlightening and disgusting audiences for several years now and, in his latest outpouring, poses the questions "You Be The Judge", "Fetus Messiah", "Sweating,

Going Nowhere", "Mozart's Ear" and I Kissed Ass for an NEA Grant". Declared an official menace to society by a major San Francisco monthly magazine, Hank howls at Footworks Studio studio this month (see Calendar for details).

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DISTRICT PLANNER SETS GOALS

A new program to integrate the diverse industrial, residential and commercial interests of the Mission, devised by the Department of City Planning, places Angelica Chiong in its lead position as Mission District Planner. The approach is a new one, said Chiong, "the first time in department history that there's been an effort at combining area planning."

Past efforts in city planning were divided by land use area; one planner supervising neighborhood needs, another developing objectives for industrial development. None of these approaches succeeded in linking greater questions to city planning needs. Why did big industrial plants shut down, and how did that relate to the lack of affordable housing. Why did pawnshops move from Sixth Street to the Mission?

"In the past, the biggest difference was that we dealt with individual projects," said Chiong. "We will now be doing planning for the entire area. What I'll be doing is looking at what's existing and proposed, and seeing how the land can be used in the most balanced way."

The new approach is the brainchild of City Planning Commissioner Jim Morales, who "emphasized that the Mission needed attention in terms of planning and land use," according to Chiong.

Chiong, who grew up on 25th Street and retained a special interest in the Mission, applied for the Mission District Planner's position after working the last ten years "supervising neighborhood activities" for the department.

She said her first priority in integrative planning is to look at the northeast section of the Mission; the troubled industrial area where major employers — Kilpatrick's Bakery, Koret, Best Foods — have closed their plants, leaving a ghost town of abandoned warehouses and processing plants and thousands out of work.

"The economy is making industry leave," said Chiong. "If land is too expensive to allow industrial businesses to stay in

A vintage, sepia-toned portrait of a woman from the chest up. She has dark, wavy hair and is looking slightly to her left with a neutral expression. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, blazer or jacket over a light-colored, collared shirt. The background is an indoor setting with a window showing a dark exterior, a small table with a lamp and some items on it, and a framed picture hanging on the wall to the right.

ANGELICA CHIONG

San Francisco, then we ask what sort of mixed uses can we zone for this area? Many are talking about the need for more affordable housing."

In this case, said Chiong, "the first priority is to designate what sites can be available for affordable housing, and maintain a balance so we don't pushaway the remaining industry we have."

She cited the inherent complexity of

mixing housing with industrial areas. "We wouldn't want some kinds of leather processing, for example, because of certain toxics that would not be appropriate near a residential area." How to integrate industrial and residential land uses is a matter that has not been fully studied yet, she said. Chiong speculated that warehouses, light industry and, possibly, printing plants were land uses that could co-exist with housing.

without endangering the residents to repeated toxics exposure.

Chiong said the nonprofit Mission Housing Development Corporation has contacted her office "to make sure enough land is designated for affordable housing."

And other neighborhood and business community activists haven't hesitated to contact her office to express concerns.

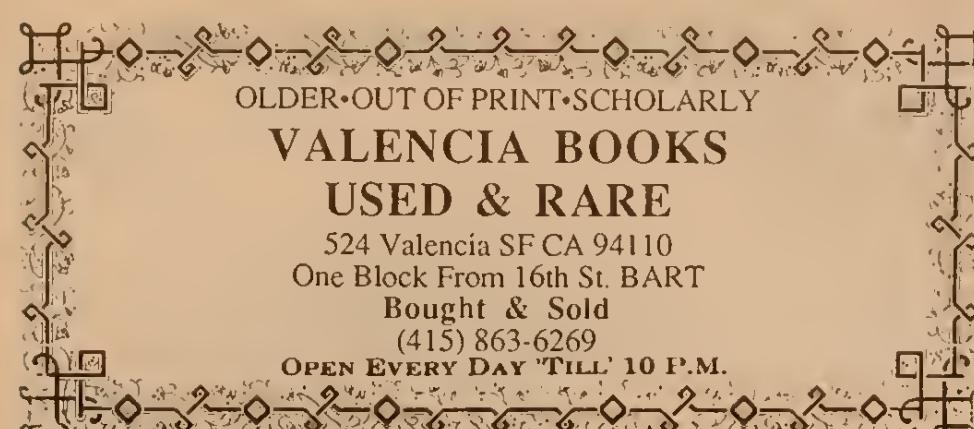
The proliferation of unpopular pawnshops inspired Hilda Bernstein of the Liberty Hill Association to suggest that City planners designate a "conditional use code" to pawnshops and other establishments blamed for a falling quality of life in the Mission.

Chiong said the matter was being studied... the Board of Supervisors has meanwhile placed a moratorium on new pawnshops (see "Neighborhood Beat") giving her five years to do so.

Liquor stores are another target of community groups, and Chiong said that both Bernstein and Mary Harden of South Mission Association requested a change in the planning code to put liquor stores within the same conditional use code as bars and other liquor establishments. Currently, only the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has power to issue liquor licenses. "The code has to be amended for liquor stores." Chiong said it would require hearings with the Board of Supervisors to allow planners to screen out more liquor stores in the Mission.

Although planners can create conditions for industrial, residential and commercial areas to meet community needs, Chiong said the planners' office did not extend to retaining businesses, and she did not yet know how to encourage businesses to remain in the area. "It would have to come down to taxes," she said, referring to plant closures. "To retain businesses is much harder."

by Tara Kramer



EASTER SALE

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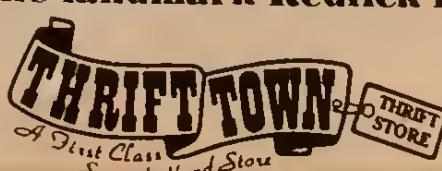
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Friday, March 1 - Sunday, March 10

BRITISH ANIMATION INVASION

London is a hot-bed of animation creativity, responsible for much of the exciting and original work in the current boom in animated entertainment. **THE BRITISH ANIMATION INVASION** is a dazzling overview of this ground-breaking work. Highlights include "Night Visitors", voted one of the best films of the year at the recent British Animation Awards and Charlie Wolsan's searing commentary on the U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, "Bluefields Express" which was voted best first film; Aardman Animations' award winning Lyo Synch series featuring "Ident", "Going Equipped" and the much heralded "Next" which won First Prize at the Hiroshima Animation Festival; "Body Beautiful" by Joanne Quinn, "Jollity Farm", a rollicking anti-nuke bollod in which all the animals have a little something extra, courtesy of the nearby nuclear reactor; Bill Mather's incredible story of evolution, "Them"; Adam and Eve as nude sponges on a shopping spree in Andrew Slovay's "Strangers In Paradise"; three hilarious new films by Candy Guard, "Moanalogue", "Wishful Thinking" and "Who About Me"; David Anderson's mesmerizing "Door"; Paul Vester's "Picnic" which won first prize at the Los Angeles International Animation Celebration and many more! In color. Total running time 90 mins. 1990/91. Great Britain
Nightly at 7:00 & 9:15. Mats Sat, Sun & Wed at Noon, 2:30 & 4:45

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Friday, March 15 - Thursday, March 21

ROBOT CARNIVAL

A futuristic "Fantasia"? Japan's answer to "Heavy Metal"? These were some of the reactions to **Robot Carnival**, an anthology feature comprised of nine dazzling animated segments. Nine of Japan's leading animation artists were invited to each create a segment for the film. "Frankenstein's Gears" (Koji Morimoto) shows the liminal, despairing efforts of an elderly mad scientist to bring his robot creation to life; "Deprive" (Hidetoshi Ohmori) is a lost-paced rock battle between a humanized robot and a handsome but cruel punk alien invader; "Presence" (Yosuomi Umetsu) is a tragic romance in a future back-to-nature society in which robots are illegal; "Starlight Angel" (Hiroyuki Kitazume) takes place in an amusement park of the future. A teenager has a romantic disappointment and finds one of the robot attendants more sympathetic than her boyfriend; "Clouds" (Mao Lomdo) is a dreamy mood piece about a robot child who marvels at the wonders of nature; "A Strange Tale from the Menji Period: A Story of the Red Haired Barbarian's Attack" (Hiroyuki Kitakubo) is a hilarious parody of Japanese World War II propaganda cartoons; "The Chicken Man and the Crimson Head" (Takashi Nakamura) personifies fears that modern society has become overly mechanized and soulless. In color. 35mm. 90 mins. 1991. Japan.

Nightly at 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00; Additional Sat & Sun mats at 2:00 & 4:00.

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Friday, March 22 - Thursday, March 28

MARIA'S STORY

MARIA'S STORY is an intimate documentary portrait of a thirty-nine year old woman presented in the context of Central American poverty and the civil war which has shaped her life. It is about one woman's decision to join the rebel forces of her country, a story told through her eyes and with her voice, weaving a dramatically vivid tapestry of a life as a leader in the guerrilla movement. Through the course of the film, Maria's daily existence is depicted in ways that are at once horrific and revelatory as she reflects on her decision to fight for change in her country while wrestling with the need to offer her personal story to audiences who might not otherwise have the opportunity to understand her life as a Salvadoran wife, mother and guerrilla leader. "An example of the documentary at its most illuminating and succinct." — Kevin Thomas, L.A. Times. A hit of the Mill Valley, San Antonio and Sundance Film Festivals. Produced by Pamela Cohen and Catherine Ryon. Directed by Monona Walu and Pamela Cohen. In color. 16mm. \$3 mins. In Spanish with English voice-over and subtitles. 1990.

WEST COAST THEATRICAL PREMIERE

3117 16th (at Valencia) 863-1087

CARNIVAL SAN FRANCISCO MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY 1991 COUNTDOWN

with C.M. Collins

Let's give a warm welcome back to C'SF pilgrims who have recently returned from the pre-Lenten Carnavals in New Orleans, Trinidad, and Brazil. Most notably would be MECA's **Roberto Hernandez and Marcus Gorden** who saw how New Orleans generates \$350 million plus as a result of their 150 year traditional celebration of life...Carnaval is a growth industry as more and more communities discover that the Carnaval spirit not only offers a positive channel for creative energies but pays economic dividends as well. C'SF is still a child at 12 years old but ABC-TV(Chan.7/KGO) seems to be a believer as they hope to be broadcasting our Grand Parade in several more markets this

May 26, 1991

With three months to go till the big event many Carnaval groups are just now getting going but the spectacular Brazilian contingents are well under way. From three in '89 to five in '90 to what looks like at least seven this year. At *Third Wave Dance* (24th & Mission) Sunday afternoons you will find incredible energy as *Orixá Ba Ba* rehearses with their 90 plus dancers. **Dominique** says the four Bahian Oba Oba stars working with them are "so cool" or in the words of **Joan Brion** "it's like right from the source." ...**Elvira Cola** and her **Berkeley** based contingent, *Mexe Mexe* will be doing a *Bloco* as opposed to an *Escola* for C'91 which is more "free-form, open, creative, free-thinking and fun" and less traditional. Hence their theme, *Ajolia Do Carnaval*. Her contingent includes percussion instructor **George Carrioca**, singer **Ivson Lins** and the ubiquitous **Chico**. As a KPFA DJ, Elvira wants your specially composed C'90 & C'91 music. Contact her at 525-2574.



Carnaval Performer's Association (CPA) has arrived holding a very productive meeting with parade producer **MECA** at *Studio Brasil* recently. Presenting the case for the CPA were **Chalo Edwardo, Dennis Broughton, and Roger Poirier**. MECA was very receptive although parade co-founder and MECA/CARNAVAL artistic director, **Marcus Gorden**, believed his long-standing C' Advisor's Group could handle any concerns. One change agreed upon was to liven up the festival site by giving the contingents the block between 17th & 16th on Harrison to display floats and hang out at. Other issues discussed included reserved bathrooms, costume change facilities, security, liability



insurance, greater impact on making or un-making decisions, and of course judging. **MECA President Roberto** suggested canceling the judges and sentiment seemed to agree that competition may not be a good thing for C'SF but the final decision was put over to the next meeting. To register your opinion call MECA at 826-1401 or CPA at 821-4069...At last count there were twelve new groups for C'91. If this continues there will have to be winners and losers (e.g. children's parade, audition for TV parade) so having a decision making process in which participants feel they got a fair shake becomes more important--welcome CPA to our mission to make C'SF grow & glow.

While the New Orleans Carnaval system has been adopted in over 30 cities in the Southwest and Brazilian Carnaval has the most spectacular video and largest amount of participants probably the most influential Carnaval must be Trinidad & Tobago's, Caribbean Islands just off the coast of Venezuela. Here at the capital, Port-of-Spain, they have invented the sweet steelpan, calypso & soca music and the greatest individual costumes the world has ever produced. Their simple system allows anyone who wishes to buy a costume at a mas camp and jump up with a group parading around a huge sound truck(s) performing great songs known as *road marches*. There are many competitions and all the natives get caught up in the spirit of things or they leave town... C'SF has three Trinidadian styled groups including C'90's grand prize winner *Mas Makers*. However, they are all East Bay/South Bay based. *Mas Makers* C'91 theme is year will be African Reflections (try Suzanne 832-8110) or pride of Richmond's *Masqued Revellers* (Bea Watson 234-8013)...Nearby check out the 20'x 15' Eric the Viking king costume *Mas Maker's* Trinidadian master costume designer **Barney Bialze** performed with at Port of Spain recently. Oakland/Port of Spain Sister City campaign is now underway. If you are a close personal friend of **Mayor Elihu Harris** then please contact T&T Assoc. President **Henry Lincolnat** 222-7475...For a T&T C'91 video call Chris at 641-4924 (\$1/day).



You may be the King or Queen of Carnaval, before whom all of us must defer as royal subjects of the mystic realm of make-believe will be chosen on Sunday, March 31, 5pm at the Van Ness Holiday Inn--Club Interlude. A distinguished panel of believers will choose the monarchs who shall reign supreme atop their own parade float on Carnaval Day based upon presence, spirit, and costume. A dream come true. (Info-MECA 826-1401)

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WORLD'S SMALLEST RADIO STATION

When you step into Radio Valencia Cafe, you won't have any trouble spotting its owners. Don and Lanee Alan will be busy bussing tables, foaming milk for cappuccinos, drawing mugs of dark, imported beer for customers chatting at the bar.

Many Mission locals tend to think of the corner of Valencia and 23rd Streets as being the location of the old Artemis Cafe, a popular hang-out for a primarily female clientele for 13 years. Clearly the sudden change on the corner has taken locals by surprise and while I sat waiting to speak to Don and his wife many people stopped by the window or stood in the doorway to absorb the colorful art on the walls, inhale the smell of fresh paint and make a mental note of the place.

The cafe is the Alan's first attempt at the restaurant business, although Lanee has worked in Italian cafes in San Francisco. "There was no marketing study," says Don, who concedes he and his wife tailored the cafe to their own personal taste. "We'd ask ourselves, where is the ideal place to go tonight that's not around." With Lanee's artistic talents and Don's roots in radio, Mission dwellers are in store for more than tea and conversation.

The tables once belonging to Artemis have been spruced up with a coat of fresh paint and a little creative talent from stencil and spray paint artist Peter Friedrich. Friedrich is one of many friends of the Alans that have lent their talents to the cafe. Some of the artwork on the walls has been given to the Alans, while a collection is on loan.

Don points to a row of masks above the bar, payment for working Sundays at a mask shop. Two larger-than-life paper mache skeletons playing the guitar and fiddle are suspended from the ceiling, once featured in the Latin Festival Dia de los

Muertos (Day of the Dead). Don acknowledges his wife, an illustrator and designer, for her artistic efforts. "Lanee is the artist, that's her department," he says. "Music is mine."

With ten years in non-commercial radio, there's no one more qualified to do the job than Don. When I was working in radio, I always had access to new music," he says. "When I left, I lost that." Don hopes to draw individuals into the cafe who are interested in sampling different kinds of music, songs that don't receive frequent radio play. Radio Valencia will be creating their own format, featuring: Blues, Jazz, alternative rock, Rap, international music and "Roots Rock n' Roll".

Cuts from a CD entitled Yala: Egyptian Hit List, a collection of contemporary Egyptian music are among those featured on the playlist as well as the selections by the Ambitious Lovers, an "Avant Rock" band from New York City.

Playlists, located on each table, list the artist, cut, LP and label. When the cassette changes, new corresponding playlists are distributed to each table. Don recommends this method of sampling before dropping \$15 to \$20 on an imported new release. In an attempt to appeal to the diverse tastes of his clientele, he makes each playlist as varied as possible. One can find Aretha Franklin's latest cut "Since You've Been Gone" listed on the same card as k. d. Lang, Perez Prado, Chuck Prophet and Roseanne Cash. Alan sells a limited collection of CD's, Radio Valencia's own top 40.

While sampling the cafe's music, you will also want to sample the food. Radio Valencia offers a simple menu of sandwiches, salads and soups, all prepared in the cafe by Lanee. "We want to keep the menu simple but use the freshest ingredients we can," says Don. The Alans hope to

PHOTO BY COLLETTE SWEENEY



capture the atmosphere of an Italian cafe in the morning and a British pub in the afternoon and evening. The cafe uses freshly ground gourmet coffee in all their coffee drinks as well as imported beers on draft.

Affordable rents in the Mission have attracted new businesses to the area with an abundance of customers following closely behind. The Chameleon Club, the Crystal Pistol, Cafe Beano, Val21, Da Do Ron Ron and the Roman Cowboy Diner are just a few of the Valencia Street hotspots.

"There's a lot of life on this street, says Don, welcoming first timers into the cafe. "I like that mix."

Radio Valencia Cafe is located at 1199 Valencia Street, on the corner of 23rd Street, and is open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 to midnight, Friday and Saturday until 2:00 AM. The cafe's late night menu is served until closing.

by Sarah Baker

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ROCK'N ROLL REPTILE

Do yourself and your friends a favor, skip the cappuccinos and the biscotti for an evening of unique entertainment, Chameleon style. Mission residents who want an alternative to the subdued cafe atmosphere will want to sample the shows at the Chameleon. The grinning lizard welcomes patrons to what used to be the Chatterbox, known for its "metal and speed metal hard rock and roll" format.

Karen Carney, the new owner hopes her new business will continue to be popular among the old clientele as well as appeal to a larger audience. "We don't want to label ourselves," says Carney, who is often asked if the bar has a gay, lesbian or straight orientation. "We don't want to exclude anyone," she says. "We think just about anyone could come here and feel comfortable."

Let loose with several cans of colored paints, Carney and her friends went to town on the place. The Grinch, a popular children's book character painted on the walls, looks down at patrons with a sheepish grin. Paint brush strokes in every conceivable color leave not a square inch of the room in its original state. The finished product resembles an attempt to convert a kid's room into a boy's club house. This adult club house features live music Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings with "sporadic events" throughout the week. Performers booked at the Chameleon play primarily rock music although the format frequently varies to include acoustic guitar and punk rock shows. Carney, like many of her counterparts in the Mission, supports

local talent. "We like to give new bands a chance," she says.

Although Carney has managed a number of night clubs in the city, including the old Fire House 7, which is now under new management and the Blue Lamp on Geary Street, she has never owned a business before. Supported by a large contingent of

rather than competing with one another. The Chameleon has joined in the effort and will be working with the Crystal Pistol, another night spot on Valencia Street, to sponsor upcoming events. "I think it's important to work with your neighbors," she says.

Carney, who lives in the Mission, is



PHOTO BY JASON ALBERSON

friends, many of whom work at the Chameleon, Carney, who is just 27, appears confident with her new business owner status.

Businesses on Valencia Street have welcomed Carney into the neighborhood and continue to rally around each other

pleased with the area's commercial resurgence. "I think a really strong society is going to form and is going to make the Mission a powerful place." She still considers crime a problem in the neighborhood that could potentially hurt businesses in the

area.

"Unfortunately the drug scene is still really happening around here," says Carney. The reputation the Mission is gaining as an artistic community, Carney believes, could counteract its long-standing notoriety as a crime ridden neighborhood.

"There's a good neighborhood sense, people really look out for each other." Frequently sponsoring benefits for a variety of neighborhood groups is one way Carney looks out for her Mission neighbors. Every Saturday afternoon, a benefit is held for the homeless. Instead of paying a cover charge at the door, patrons are asked to donate canned foods or blankets. Matinee shows on Saturday start at 5:00 and run until 8:00.

Sordid Humor, Joy Scouts, Shit Howdy, Balls of Steel, Gargoyles and Chuck Prophet at his Creatures of Habit are among the acts booked for the coming month. Many of the bands showcased are more commonly booked at large clubs but, according to Carney, "the performers like the smaller space, the sound is good." Sell-out shows are not uncommon at the Chameleon so get there early to claim a bar stool.

Music is not all that is featured at the Chameleon, pool tournaments, poetry readings as well as a college radio program will be planned for the coming months. For more information about upcoming events and scheduling call the Chameleon at 821-1891.

The Chameleon is located at 853 Valencia Street, between 19th and 20th Streets.

by Sarah Baker

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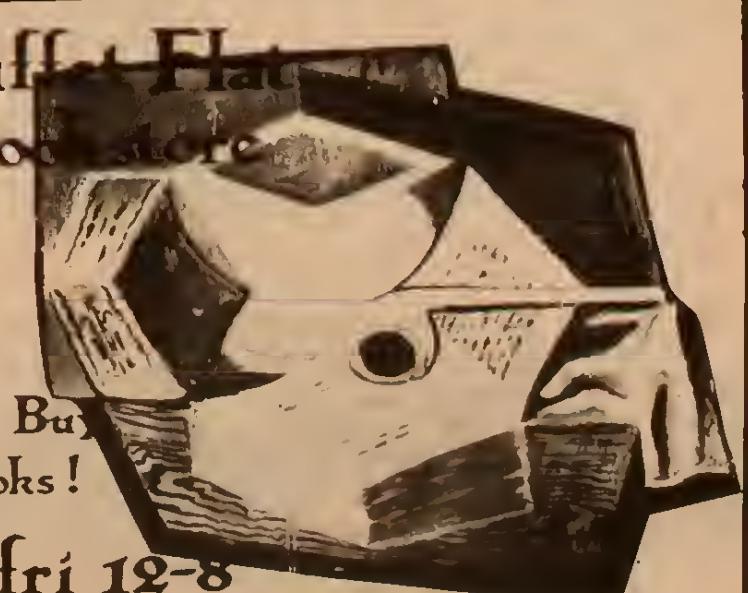
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SNAKEWALK

It was graffitied on a bathroom wall in some local Mission bar - a quote that read "What has man proved by standing up for so long?" Inside another urban archive of ink-smeared thoughts and patulous opinions, the remark was carried away from the watering hole to be scribbled on my refrigerator that same evening.

Sure enough, as things seem to work in their unpredictable ways, I found the source performing at Nightbreak last month. Snakewalk, a six-piece group of diverse musicians (past involvements include everything from The Looters and San Francisco Symphony to the Fat Chance Belly Dance Ensemble, individually speaking), reclaimed the unforgettable words when lead singer/ex-flute prodigy Robin Banks used them to lead into the song "Lower Forms of Life". Drawing her listeners in with her uncontrived-but-persistent vocals, Banks began a scenario on how "we take a lesson" from the amoebic forms occupying Mother Earth. Yes, it all made sense now.

Snakewalk is not a rock band. It's not a funk band, nor is it a worldbeat band. Not easily categorized, the band has no problems playing as a musical zeitgeist that is capable of making anyone shake their butt. Tight and enthusiastic, Snakewalk weaves dance, tribal rhythms, street funk and other sounds together with compelling lyrics. Who ever said revolution had to be grim?

Banks' striking voice should be recognized by devoted live music patrons who followed her first band, the Appliances... one of the first funk-punk acts on this side of the continent. (No, the Red Hot Chili Peppers did not spark alternative music's Big Bass Boom, pardon.) The Appliances eventually broke up, but Robin continued her great ability to pluck and slap bass chords alongside eclectic guitarist Joe Gore in Big City, undoubtedly one of the more enigmatic bands to emerge out of the Bay Area's 80's music scene.

Gore's far-from-diminutive musical



SNAKEWALK MEMBERS (L. to R) NANCY HALL, NAOMI TRUE & ROBIN BANKS

background (he already carried a lute around at 16, with studies in Renaissance music and polyrhythmic guitar to follow) has provided Snakewalk with an efficacious personality on 6-string guitar. Perhaps Big City's local popularity (unfortunately, a recorded album was never made) came from Gore and Banks' insight into not compromising their positive, artistic ingenuity by sober, ostentatious egos.

Completely absorbed in their melodic threading, Snakewalk is still engaged in the FUN of their music. With vocalists/percussionists Nancy Hall and Naomi True, bassist Jimmy Johnson and drummer Andy Lewis, Gore and Banks have managed to create cerebral intensity with taunting beat.

Amidst recording sessions and Banks' preoccupation with the collective performance space, Klub Komotion (the best live music space here in the Mission, if you ask me), Snakewalk is best seen live, since it's emphatically a live band.

Opening at Slim's a few months ago (who they opened for escapes me), I remembered the subtle effrontery of the female vocalists, the bells and jangles, the cool drummer and the thick eyewear frames the guitarist sported. Human forms ebbing and flowing onstage, the women sidled slowly over to their instruments; the next thing to happen was pure, succinct groove.

Not many can answer "What has man proved by standing up for so long," nor do

many want to answer; but giving a listen to Snakewalk at least proves we can make the best of our posture.

Snakewalk's "Lower Forms of Life" appears (with other works by Penelope Houston, Don Bajema, Peter Plate, the Looters and such) on the Komotion International compilation album available at real record stores or by writing Razier Records, Box 146639, SF 94114. They anticipate club dates at El Rio and the Paradise Lounge sometime in March.

by Kristy O'Rell

		March 91		
		WED	FRI	SAT
SUN	4 to 8	Comedy Night 7-11		
TU	Dollar 1 3	Tree House 9-12		
MONTUNO ST. Salsa	EVERY MONDAY	5 every Tuesday		
JEFF NARELL Rhythm and Steel Caribbean Dance Music	WELL BUD MILES	12 Michael		
GRUPO SINIGUAL (Salasional)	16 ALL DAY	19 Michael		
VOZ Pop, Brazilian Lambada	Dollar 1 Day	26 Michael		
CONJUNTO CESPEDES Cuban Music				
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LIFE IN THE WEIRD LANE

This is why I love life. Life always amazes you, especially when life is worst, that is, noticing your mistakes. If you take the time to stop and smell the thorns, you'll realize, "I'm important enough that karma or kismet or some other mystical 'k' wants to make me extremely miserable." That's a very heady feeling. You know you're getting a lot of attention, and that makes you feel real good, which helps offset the severe suffering.

So here are some of my astonishments:

I get busted on BART: when I hear sirens in my neighborhood, I don't say, "Oh God!", I say, "Oh, now what." It's got to the point that unless I see someone eat himself alive, I'm not alarmed. So I'm at the Embarcadero station. Lately, it has been swarming with BART cops. There may be another explanation, but I think they are afraid of terrorist attacks. As if terrorists can make BART run any worse through sabotage than it's managed to do with its gazillion-million dollar new computer system that doesn't work. Terrorists aren't that stupid. If they want to demoralize us, they'll have to attack things important to most Americans, like the broadcasting home of MTV.

So I'm down on the platform, not with a kilo of heroin, not with Jock Sturges photos, but with - are you ready - a cup of coffee. After living in the Mission 5 years I've developed good peripheral vision. When you tend to come home as late as I do, you learn to appreciate the value of wide scanning that just might identify a pipe coming across the side of your head as if a target was conveniently printed on it. I noticed the unscary BART cop rushing toward me. I guzzled the cup of coffee. Have you ever guzzled a cup of coffee? Don't. It makes you curse aloud. Unintelligibly.

I tossed the incriminating cup in the trash. The Coffee-pouncer told me, "It is

illegal to have food or drink in the paid area of the BART stations!"

They have authorized cops to look for styrofoam. While people are dying of hunger here. I calmly explained that the cup had only contained cocaine, which, when I had

saw the football and then I caught it and then I ran 'cause my legs weren't doing anything at that time 'cept standing there."

Anyway, my boss and I are on the phone with this guy who represents our entire western region. He says he wants me to



it up to my face, I was snorting, so it didn't really qualify as food or drink. Fast thinking like that got me off the hook.

I meet someone stupider than me: don't get me wrong. I think I'm intelligent. It's just that when I forget my intelligence, I can be as dumb as the professional football player who gets paid a gazillion-million dollars to smash his body up against people just like him down a rectangular area of grass, but who doesn't have enough sense to hire a spokesman to say the easiest things like, "We played a good game. That's why we won" instead of him saying "Yeah, I

come down to Los Angeles. My boss says, "As long as you pay for it" and he agrees. I say, "Oh, can I then go to Disneyland?"

Now, I would not go to Disneyland if they legalized marijuana there, which they won't do. You'd have too many paranoid cases after tokers realized they were around giant mice and giant ducks. But this guy, who makes a gazillion-million amount of dollars hesitated, and then said, "Um . . ." trying to consider a way to put a company paid trip to Disneyland on the books. My boss spared him and said, "Don is just joking" and I felt so sorry for him that I said,

"Hey, I've heard Joe Montana say he's going there so many times . . ." which I never really have. I just can't watch grown men run up and down grass rectangles.

People get mad at me and I want to kill them: if you're going to get mad, get mad. If you just simmer, you deserve the frustration. I think of Attila or a supernova as examples of how to go about expressing what you need to express when things build up. But don't get mad over stuff that is so stupid that I'll do a better job at rage and kill you over because you're incompetent at it.

I have gazillion-million stories of people who got under my very sensitive pale skin, but only space for one. Someone on BART sniffed at me because I asked to crawl over her to sit in the empty seat. This is not surprising; many people who pay a fare feel they have complete rental rights on that whole padded stretch of commuter space.

I figured that the reason this person was upset was because, by crawling over, I interrupted her reading. Her book was the Bible. When you're delving into material that advises you to do great things like "turn the other cheek" or "thou shalt not covet the empty BART seat" you absolutely do not want to be interrupted by someone taking that empty seat. To hell with this interloper. That's why religious wars are always won by the group that believed in God better than the side that got slaughtered.

How did I get my vicious revenge on this woman? Once I sat down, I kept quiet and let her keep reading the Bible. If that wasn't mean enough, I was just waiting to slap her face once she got to that "turn the other cheek". But by the time we got to Rockridge station, she was only up to Psalms, and it was too far away to the New Testament, so I got off; we were just getting too close to Concord for my tastes.

by Don Stevens

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Soft, sagging chairs. Soft, lumpy mattresses. Unadjustable car steering wheels. Low feet-in-front automobile car seats. Rigid school desks. Modern sofas with curved backs or no backs. Everywhere, we are surrounded with furniture and devices that not only do not help our posture, but in some cases do damage to it. And chronic poor posture can lead to fatigue, irritability, muscle strain and, in extreme cases, functional and organic problems.

Even in your home you probably have many "posture traps" which you use for relaxation and comfort but which, in reality, are detrimental to normal body balance.

Unfortunately, most people confuse softness with comfort, and don't realize that unless a seat or mattress is firm enough and supportive enough to properly hold the spine, the vital muscles and joints can be strained. Sinking into your favorite chair can also crowd your abdomen, compress your chest cavity and ultimately hinder your body from functioning healthfully.

On the other hand, stiff and unyielding chairs can be damaging too. Some school desks are prime examples. Seats should

allow the child to rest his feet on the floor, with the knees at a right angle. The back of the chair should support the spine and prevent the chest from sagging.

There are several things you can do to achieve healthier sitting posture for your family. First of all, get rid of harmful "posture traps". Invest in posture supportive chairs. Don't forget that softness and comfort are not synonymous, and that the true test of a seat is whether you can sit in it for long periods of time without fatigue or discomfort. The old-fashioned rocking chair, which exercises the legs and stimulates blood circulation as it supports the back, is often found to be an excellent posture seat.

Your mattress should also be firm. If you do not have a chiropractic mattress which has been specifically engineered and designed to give good sleeping posture, it is recommended that you temporarily place a piece of plywood between your present mattress and box springs to keep your bed firm.

Your car, another possible "posture trap", should likewise be chosen carefully. Look for adjustable seats, ample leg room,

seating that lets you sit on your rump and not the end of your spine, dashboard instruments which can be reached without strain, and firm seat cushioning.

Your doctor of chiropractic, who is a specialist in treating health problems related to the structure and nerve functions of your body, reminds you that, when you permit your spine to sag, you are allowing muscles to relax and ligaments to be placed

under tension as the segments of the spine reach their limit of motion. This, in turn, can cause many types of health problems.

The solution: Have periodic spinal examinations. And if your dog wants the broken down, sagging easy chair, give it to him. Stay out of "posture traps" and enjoy life to its fullest.

by Robin L. Silverman, D.C.

NUTRITIONAL CARE

LET THEM EAT SOUP

Home made soup does not have to be difficult or time-consuming to make, and can form the central part of a healthy meal. Keep on hand, at all times, the basics - carrots, onion, potatoes, celery and vegetable broth or water from cooking noodles. Remember that simple combinations work better than complicated ones. Miso paste is a good flavoring agent; add at the end of cooking to preserve the valuable enzymes it contains. Light miso is most versatile, as its flavor will not take over or mask the natural taste of the vegetables.

2 carrots, diced
1 stalk celery, minced
1 onion, minced

2 slices fresh ginger root, minced
2 TBS olive oil
3 potatoes (about 1 lb.) diced
3 dried shiitake mushrooms, soaked and sliced
5 cups vegetable broth or water
2 or more cups corn kernels, fresh or frozen
1 TBS light miso paste
1/2 cup soy milk.

In a 4-quart soup pot, heat oil and saute carrots, celery, onion, ginger until fragrant. Do not brown.

Add potatoes, saute 2-3 minutes.
Add broth and mushrooms, bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer 20 minutes.
Add corn and return to boil.
Puree 1/2 the soup in a blender with miso paste, return to pot.
Add 1/2 cup soy milk or more to adjust to desired thickness.
Check seasoning.
Serve hot, garnished with chopped parsley.

by Lisa Berkelhammer, L.Ac.

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NMN

MENTAL HEALTH DISASTER DELAYED

The closure of the Mount Zion mental crisis clinic, which would send hundreds of severely disturbed patients wandering through the Mission in an attempt to find treatment at the already overburdened San Francisco General Hospital has been postponed by the City's Health Commission, following action by the Board of Supervisors. Mount Zion, slated for termination on March 1st, will be allowed a reprieve until June. Doctors, concerned neighbors, patients' advocates and politicians such as Supervisor Angela Alioto are fighting to extend the closure date or to keep the clinic open indefinitely.

John Knox of Mt. Zion said that funds had been found which were sufficient to keep the clinic open "pending transition or closure". He explained that Mt. Zion receives most of its money from the City and, despite a resolution by the Supervisors, the Health Department had deemed the facility expendable.

But Supervisor Alioto's office believes the "savings" would be eaten up due to the increased SFGH workload, the necessity of using the police as mental health caseworkers of last resort, and the potential of lawsuits arising out of the increased crime rate caused by these hundreds of mental patients unable to receive their treatment or medication.

Fancher Bennett of Patients' Rights Advocates concurs, noting that the City will have to hire employees to do the work done by Mt. Zion's volunteers and spend far more on other services. "It will be terrible for police and ambulance drivers who will have to ferry people around trying to find a facility that has room."

"Most people who use the crisis clinic are poor and don't even have bus fare," she added, admitting that a lot of people who are turned away when SFGH is full will have no alternative but to wander the streets of the Mission, waiting for something to happen.

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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Leslea Newman: author of "A Letter to Harvey Milk" and "Heather Has Two Mommies" will read new stories and poetry at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia near 21st. 7:30 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

The Most Important Skinny Dadaist Performer in America: is Larry Goodell, maker of gringo Shaman masks and turkey farmer who also reads poetry and plays music. Plus Lewis Jordan, fusing poetry and music at Intersection, 446 Valencia near 16th. 8 PM, \$2-4, 626-ARTS.

Anti-War Teach Ins: sponsored by Open Forum at the New College 50 Fell Street campus continue through Friday, March 8. Discussions on movement organizing, police repression, direct action strategies and more. 7 PM, call 552-2993 for speaker info.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Tunnelados del Muerte: La Guerra en el Golfo Persico: in other words, death in the Gulf War - a Spanish language panel with Puerto Rican, Mexican, Argentinian and local speakers. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Barrett Watten and Margaret Crane: read at Forest Books, 3080 16th near Valencia. 8 PM, \$3.00, 863-2755.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Rebellion is the Circle of a Lover's Hands: bilingual English/Spanish reading by Puerto Rican poet Martin Espada. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Dutchman: Amiri Baraka's classic 1964 play is revived at 1800 Square Feet Theatre. Robert Ellis and Adrienne Delfinia Ferrari star and Ven Henderson directs. Fridays and Saturdays through March 30th. 719 Clementina in squamous SOMA, 8:30 PM, \$4-8, 773-8706.

Our Lives on the Line: Info and discussion on the impact of the Persian Gulf war on women sponsored by and held at SF Women's Building, 3543 18th Street near Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-6, 431-1180.

Fury and Finesse: Dominique Lowell, Kim Nomad, Dawn Obert and friends pile, rip and splatter at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia. 10:30 PM, \$3, 641-4318.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Beyond Mondo: anti-travelogs by Jonathan Robinson and other exotic images of Oriental gays. ATA, 992 Valencia near 20th. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Open Lesbian/Gay Poetry Reading: hosted by Stephanie Henderson in honor of International Women's Day. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Ulrike Ottinger Retrospective: films about fashion addicts, lesbian buccaneers in pen's and leather, transsexual German ringmasters, media mafiosi and Mongolian amazon kidnappings at the Castro Theatre, Market and Castro through 14th. Grab a calendar or call 621-6120 for times and screenings.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Perspectives on the War: by Jewish, Feminist and Arab speakers at New College, sponsored by San Francisco Greens at New College, 777 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-10, 255-2940.

An Evening With Rob Nilsson: which local filmmaker will discourse and present his 1977 "Prairie Fire" about revolting farmers in 1915 North Dakota. \$4 donation towards his new film about the homeless includes live music from the English underclass. 8 PM at Komotion, 2779 16th, never a telephone.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Happy Quinceanos, Roxie: and in honor of the venerable if occasionally grimy theater's 15th birthday settle back with the timely "Dr. Strangelove" and Peter Sellers co-feature "The Smallest Show on Earth". 16th and Valencia, tonight only!

Cultural Intolerance at the Salad Bar: which multi-cultural collaborative artists hold a form on their installation "The Forbidden Self at 7:30 PM. Capp Street Project, 270 14th off Mission, Free! Installation runs all month, call 626-7747.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Now That Twin Peaks is Cancelled... Where's Bob?: Church of the Subgenius propagandist Hal Robbins mutters and smokes and Goody Thompson, author of "Mr. Snake and Mr. Frog" and called "the female Bukowski" indulges her "underwear crotch collecting obsession" (sic) at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia. Turn Bob loose on this bunch!

The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About: a reading by Chicana lesbians at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

I Wanna Future: sez frequently grotesque performer Hank Hyena and this collection of pieces including Rodent War, Urine Vigilante, The Devil's Lament and more won't improve his squalid reputation.

At Footwork, 3221 22nd Street, 8:30. Tickets \$8, also 16th, 22nd and 23rd.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Disabled Art Auction: or more appropriately an auction by normal and disabled artists to benefit disabled artists... or is it really good artists with disabilities that don't affect their artistic abilities or... anyway, good stuff at Vision Gallery, 1155 Mission beginning 3 PM, 620-0290.

Cinema of Disgust: New York's Nick Zedd appears in person premiering "War is Menstruation Envy" starring Jesse Helms' March centerfold girl Annie Sprinkle and also screens "Whoregasm" and "Police State". ATA, 992 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5.

Black Ties Fight Drugs: at the Fairmont Hotel, 950 Mason. Dignitaries including Sherry Agnos, Rev. Cecil Williams, various 49ers and rap stars in a dinner benefit for crack addicted infants. \$75 per person, no-host bar. 6:30 PM, 777-2340.

Turn Japanese: at Komotion's benefit for Yaka Cultural Exchange featuring Ogie Yocha, Butoh Dancers and surprises. 2779 Folsom near 16th after the sun goes down.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Hey, Remember Central America?: thoughts on the other war by renowned linguistics professor Noam Chomsky at the Victoria Theater, 2961 16th off Mission. Noon, \$6-10, 621-8981 or 282-9246.

Smell This/In Your Face: reading by contributors to magazines "Smell This" (women of color) and "In Your Face" (men of color) at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

A Night at the Bijou: An improvised B-movie and full-length feature film spliced together by Bay Area Theatre Sports at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street near South Van Ness. 8 PM, \$10, 824-8220.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

The Truth About Ted: is revealed by poet Bruce Boone, appearing with Michael Amnasan ("Joe Liar") at Forest Books, 3080 16th at Valencia. 8 PM, \$3, 863-2755.

Queen Salmon: a dance production of Human Nature Series at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 8 PM, \$7-9, (707) 629-3670 for times through 30th.

San Francisco Murals: discussed and shown in a slide presentation by Tim Drescher also including worldwide "public art". Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Mira Cycle I: dance and performance by Contraband at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida, 8:30 PM. Tickets \$12, 621-7797 (also 22nd and 23rd).

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Maria's Story: a documentary of a Salvadoran wife, mother and guerrilla leader at the Roxie, 16th and Valencia through 28th.

Bums Eat Shit: drool along to poetry from Sparrow 13 and David West, a tracker of financial district werewolves at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Sanctus: Barbara Hammer's re-edit of X-ray footage by James Sibley Watson, the strangest doctor/filmmaker in Rochester, New York during the 20s and 30s, received 2 pages in the pink section and a show at SFAI last month... if you missed it here's another chance. ATA, 992 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Clamp Down! at the Second Annual Humbug Party sponsored by E. Clampus Vitae at Mariposa Hunter's Point Yacht Club, 405 China Basin next to Pier 50. 10:30 AM until ? (if you don't know who the Clampers are, ask somebody).

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Simians, Cyborgs and Women: examined by feminist theorist Donna Haraway at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 20th. 8 PM, Free!, 282-9416.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport: Bay Area Theatre Sports regulars go down under to tackle Australians and other critters at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 8 PM, \$7, 824-8220.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Susan Gervitz and Megan Adams: read from upcoming works at Forest Books, 3080 16th. 8 PM, \$3, 863-2755.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Energize!: Joe Armstrong, a Sonoma State Professor discourses on the "Urgent Need

for a National Energy Policy Now!" at New College, 777 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-10, 255-2940.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Dead Americans: performance by renegade New York Times writer David Lerner plus audio montage from the archives of Stephen Parr (producer of the likes of Smut Fest and the poetry at Cafe Beano) held... coincidentally... at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia. 10:30 PM, \$3, 558-8112.

Pandora's Box: opened by Dance Brigade at Theater Artaud through April 7th. 450 Florida, 8 PM, \$13-15, 465-3686.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Saturday, Bloody Saturday: at ATA, 992 Valencia with Greta Snider's film "Blood Story", the Theory Girls' inter-media performance "Blood Dreams" and other gory goodies. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

ONGOING:

Industrial Visual Arts Installations: continue at Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama through 16th, featuring works by Julie Murray and Amie Laird McNeil. 863-2141.

Face: a true drama about Helio who falls off a cliff and is refused medical care for his facial disfigurement. Written and directed by Ellen Sebastian, starring Robert Ernst, Artis Fountaine, Nao Bustamante and Debora Iyall. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida through 17th, 621-7797.

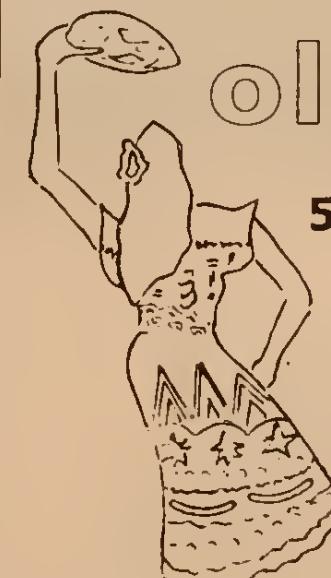
Art Against The War: "irretrievably expressing mass disgust" hangs out at ATA, 992 Valencia through the 23rd. 824-3890.

Message In A Bottle: collaborative mail art 1973-1991 at Intersection through 23rd. 446 Valencia, 626-ARTS.

Two Lost In The Filthy Night: by Brazilian dramatist Pinio Marcos plays at EXITheatre, 366 Eddy through March 23rd. 8 PM, \$8-12, 673-3847.

Programa Infantil en Espanol: para ninos de 3 a 5 en la Biblioteca de la Mision, 3359 Calle 24, todos los Sabados a las 12 PM. Telefono: 695-5090, Gratis!

Akido Arts Center of SF: classes for women, men and children! Come practice this beautiful, non-violent martial art of peaceful power, physical and spiritual fitness, fun, friends, self-defense, co-ordination and concentration. Daily classes, all levels, beginners encouraged. Jamie Zimron, Sensei, 4th Dan with Black Belt instructors. 670 South Van Ness near 18th Street, 252-2388.



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by Robert Cole and
Lowell Williams

A LMANAC: The larger planets in our solar system; Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, appear to slow down and nearly stop in our heavens this month. As these great "stars" move into stationary positions overhead, we here below are challenged with the fixedness of the universe. The flux of nature, the rhythm of change, the balance of polarities is resolved momentarily and nothing works. The stars are on strike! Nobody wants to work! The New Moon is on the 16th and the Full Moon is on the 29th.

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19): A serious confrontation with the authorities can be avoided if you simply refuse to work and hold steady to your convictions. Don't waste your time trying to teach your oppressors a lesson. Their minds are rotted with delusions of wealth and wasted hopes of greater profits. Simply refuse to work or to pay higher prices. Take what you deserve. After all, all you really want is your money.

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20): Known as the workaholic of the zodiac, you are often a focus of subtle resentment from those who hate work. It's not that they are all lazy bums; it's just that your productivity is enough to put anyone else to shame except, of course, another Taurus. Your driving efforts will stand out more than usual during the general strike affecting the marketplace. Take a big risk and join with the other non-workers this time. Don't be a scab!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20): It becomes blatantly obvious to you and your partners that you're not getting even half of what you deserve for all the work you do. The big promises of the capitalists who lord over your business are turning out to be empty delusions. Put down your tools, refuse to meet the schedule, stop playing the "good geek" games. Organize with fellow workers in order to get your fair share of the pie.

CANCER (JUN 21-JUL 22): When your work territory is invaded by newcomers who are willing to do the job for half the price, all sorts of resentment builds up; and it's just this kind of resentment that turns into vicious racism and sexism. The focus of your anger should not be on your fellow workers, but on the bosses who dare to hire the disadvantaged at slave wages and take the profits for themselves. Make an effort to get to know your fellow workers. Join the union.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22): If it weren't for your loyal companion and his/her devotion to maintaining commitments in this relationship, you'd be out on the streets with the millions of other workers who have lost their jobs. Re-assure your companion that you are very grateful for the security which he/she provides. And the easiest way to do that is to wear that beautiful smile of yours, give lots and lots of hugs and laugh at all his/her jokes. Easy.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22): The aggravating demands of your boss are not going to make you feel guilty anymore. Early in the month, you will gather enough courage to tell him/her to take this stupid job and shove it. There are only certain times in life when you are inspired to take such daring

risks and this is surely one of them. You've had it with the pipe dreams and the empty promises. The worker is always right!

LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22): The pressures of the daily work grind are enough to make you and all of your co-workers sick. The conditions are subhuman and the stooges are constantly pressuring you to do more with less. And nobody pays attention to the pollutants and the toxics which permeate your work environment. No work is more important than your health and state of well-being. Stop fooling yourself and others. Refuse to do work which is dangerous or unhealthy.

SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 22): Making plastic cigarette lighters or packaging new varieties of dry dog food may seem like productive and valuable labor, especially if the capitalist who runs the business is making tons of money off your commitment to his/her vision. But seriously, is your work beneficial to life on this planet or are you just being fooled by a greedy wheeler-dealer? What do you have to do to change?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21): A member of your very own family is thrown out on the streets this month as the spreading economic depression eliminates his/her job and the bill collectors mercilessly take revenge for bad debts. Now's the time to prove your true love. Open your door wide and share your warm home and your financial security with this poor victim. Nurture his/her wounds with good old fashioned radicalism. Big business has always been bad.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19): The distance you are required to travel to get back and forth from the job used to be no problem but, this month, the cost of maintaining your car and the amount of time you spend sitting in traffic jams simply gets to be too much. The job just doesn't have enough glitter'n'gold to keep you interested. It really is time to experiment with ride sharing or mass transit. Better yet, at-home work would solve all your problems.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18): You've made a horrible mistake if you've convinced yourself that you're making enough money on your job. Free yourself from false images of getting a good deal from your employer. It's all a mirage and you cannot afford to live with the Big Lie anymore. Demand twice as much pay for half as much work, and you'll find yourself much closer to what's fair.

PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20): You and your co-workers will organize this month and split away from the horrid conditions and practices of your present workplace. Suddenly you discover that, together, you can provide better products and services at half the price; and, on top of that, your worker benefits threefold compared to the old system. Good luck comes from abandoning the old boss. P.S. Take that vacation you've been waiting for.



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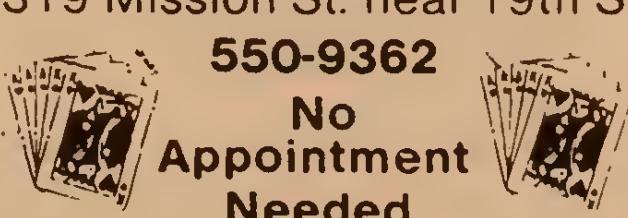
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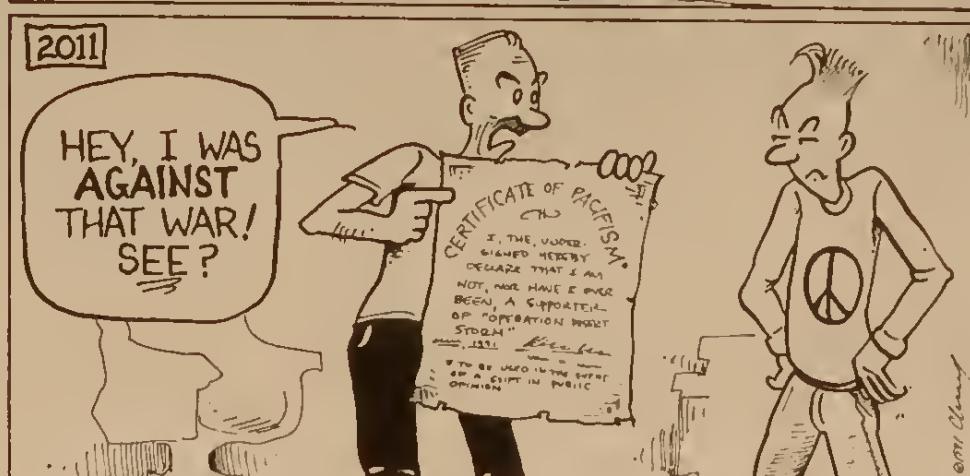


NO-FAULT WARMONGERING

Remember Vietnam? Remember how unpopular that war had gotten by the early 70's? Remember how hard it was, by then, to find anyone who would cop to ever having supported the war? And yet, we know most Americans did support that 'police action' when it began — not because they knew why we were there, but simply because we were there, and it would have been unpatriotic, in the early 60's, to criticize or even question American policy. Less than ten years later, a lot of those same people (their hair longer, their pant legs flared) had jumped on the bandwagon headed in the opposite direction. More than 50,000 Americans dead for no good reason (not to mention 1,500,000 Vietnamese, whom no one mentioned), and images of this carnage on the evening news every night, finally convinced Americans that maybe peace wasn't unpatriotic after all.

Well, here we are in 1991, frantically waving flags like there's no tomorrow (because there may not be), and, having dropped more pounds of bombs on Iraq than there are men, women and children living (?) in that country, we are on the eve of sending thousands of American soldiers to become either killers or corpses. Now, far be it from me, in this patriotic climate, to question American policy: I'm sure George Bush has excellent reasons for killing thousands of human beings — he just isn't telling us what they are! And now that we're in it, does it even matter why we're there? No, say the flag-wavers: as good Americans, it's up to us to support our troops simply because they're there.

But in the light of recent history (however thoroughly we may have forgotten it), the possibility remains that public opinion might turn against the war. It might happen when the body bags start coming home; it might happen when the slaughter of innocent civilians raises a twinge in the Ameri-



you are.

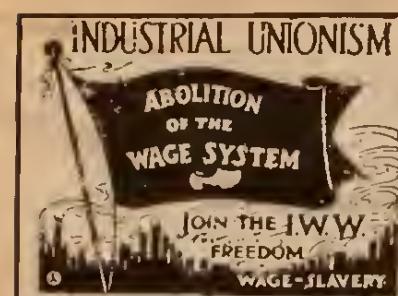
Thanks to this special One Time Only offer by the Church of Deadbeat, you can insure yourself against this embarrassing existential crisis! As an 'official anti-war protestor' and the Patriarch of the Church of Deadbeat, I am empowered (isn't that a nice word?) I say I am empowered, for a fee of \$15.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling, to issue you a signed and dated Certificate of Pacifism! For this one low payment, you can wave the flag all you want, you can use real Arab blood to dye the stripes red — hell, you can tie a yellow ribbon around your dick, for all I care — or

do nothing at all! — open up another bag of Doritos while you watch CNN, go ahead, crunch all you want! — and then, when hindsight reveals this war to be one of the most disgraceful episodes in all of 20th Century American history, you can just whip out your Certificate of Pacifism and say "I was against it all along!"

Of course, this all depends on who writes the history books, and the way things are going, it looks like the truth may be paid the same respect that is accorded to the homeless on our streets. It may be that the American soul is already dead and damned, that Orwell and Huxley were right, and that the 60's/early 70's saw the last real stirring of the human spirit before it could be well and truly laid to rest, draped under the flag of herd-minded consumerism/patriotism, corporate materialism/imperialism, and the lies that spew like vomit from the mouths of our 'elected' officials. It may be that no one will care whether or not the current slaughter is justified as long as 'we' win and the price of gas stays low.

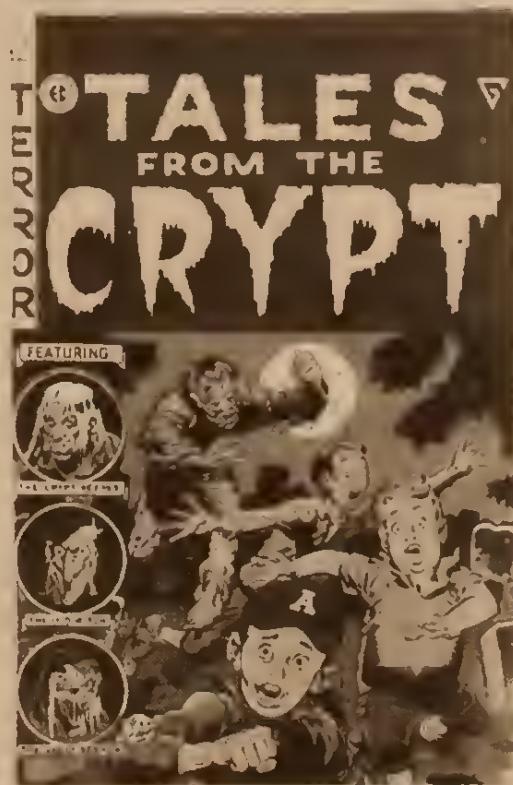
But maybe, just maybe, there's still a glimmer of sanity and conscience left in the American mind, and if it surfaces, you flag-wavers are going to look a little more than sorry in retrospect. So don't take that chance! Act now! Send \$15.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling to me, Frank Deadbeat, Patriarch of the Church of Deadbeat c/o this paper, and receive your insurance policy against history! Send for your Certificate of Pacifism today!

The soul you save could be your own.
Frank Deadbeat
Written February 19, 1991



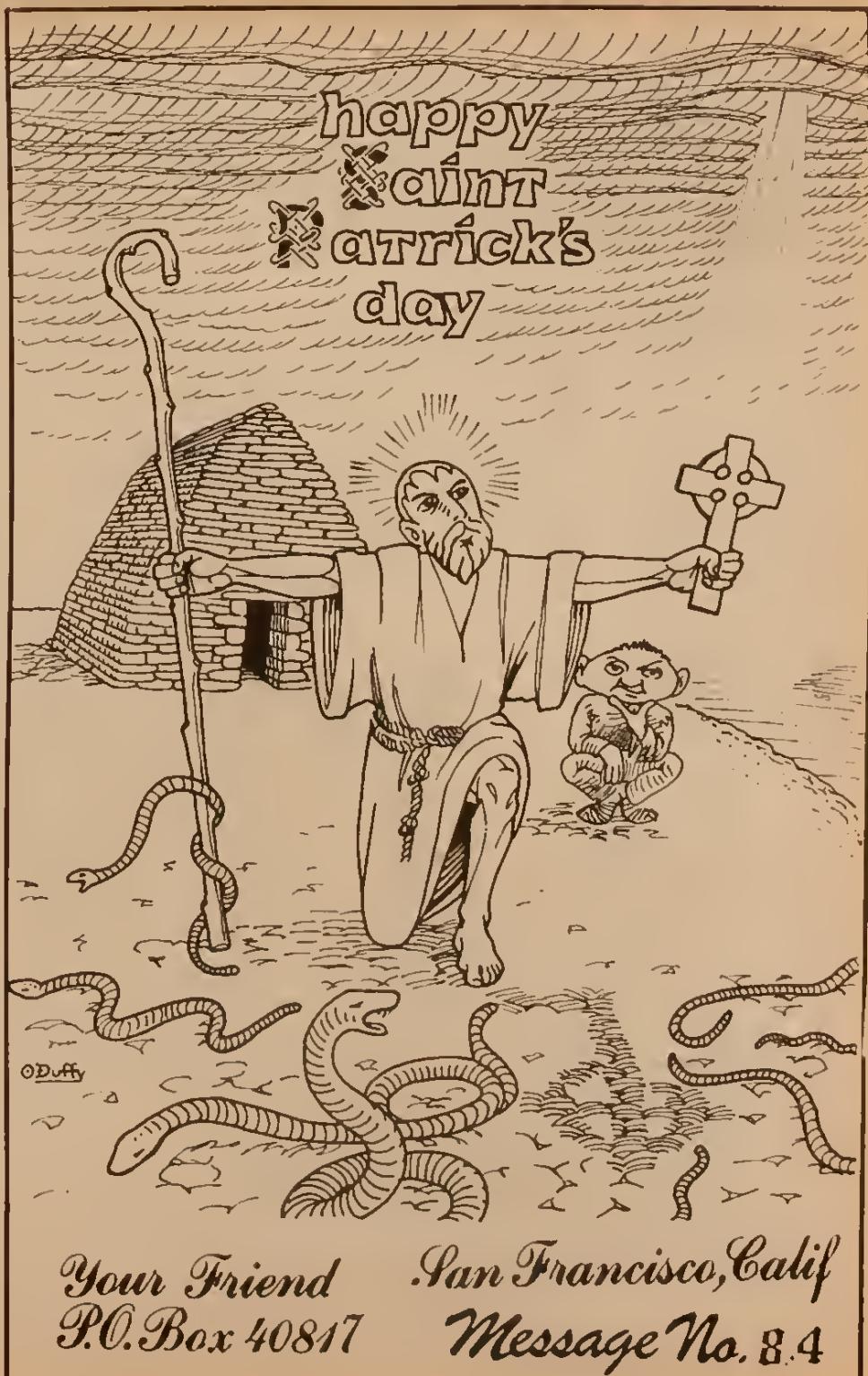
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